

## 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

### INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Chapter 3 analyzes the potential environmental impacts of each Program Alternative with respect to the environmental issue areas listed below:

- 3.1 Air Quality
- 3.2 Marine Water Quality and Sediment Quality
- 3.3 Marine Benthic Habitats, Invertebrates, and Fishes
- 3.4 Marine Wildlife (Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, Sea Birds)
- 3.5 Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- 3.6 Land Use and Recreation
- 3.7 Transportation
- 3.8 Onshore Geology, Water Resources, and Biological Resources
- 3.9 Safety/Hazards/Risk of Upset
- 3.10 Other Resources and Issue Areas
  - 3.10.1 Cultural Resources
  - 3.10.2 Noise
  - 3.10.3 Public Services and Utilities
  - 3.10.4 Aesthetics
- 3.11 Environmental Justice

Each issue area section provides background information and describes the environmental setting (baseline) to help the reader understand the conditions that would cause an impact to occur. In addition, each section describes how an impact is determined to be “significant” or “not significant.” The individual sections recommend mitigation measures (MMs) to reduce significant impacts.

The following formatting conventions apply to the discussions of impacts and MMs in Section 3. Both impacts and the corresponding MMs are identified by a bold **letter-number designation** (e.g., Impact **AQ-1** and **MM AQ-1a**). Each discussion of mitigation measures is marked by a bold, vertical bar near the left margin of the page so that mitigation measure discussions are visually prominent to the reader. When a new MM is first introduced and described in the document, the number of the MM is shown in bold to the left of the vertical bar, with the text of the MM appearing in italics to the right of the bar. Whenever a previously introduced MM is applicable to another impact, the number of the MM appears in bold, no italics, to the right of the vertical bar.

### ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

#### Environmental Baseline

The analysis of each issue area begins with an examination of the existing physical setting (baseline conditions) near the shell mounds, vessel transport destinations, and disposal or recycling sites. The effects of the alternate actions are defined as changes to the environmental setting that are attributable to these actions.

#### 1    **Significance Criteria**

2    Significance criteria are identified for each environmental issue area. The significance  
3    criteria serve as a benchmark for determining if a component action will result in a  
4    significant environmental impact when evaluated against the baseline. According to the  
5    State CEQA Guidelines section 15382, a significant effect on the environment means  
6    "...a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical  
7    conditions within the area affected by the project..."

8    Impacts are classified as:

- 9        • **Class I** (significant adverse impact that cannot be mitigated to a level of  
10        insignificant);
- 11        • **Class II** (significant adverse impact that can be mitigated to a level of  
12        insignificant);
- 13        • **Class III** (adverse, insignificant impact); or
- 14        • **Class IV** (beneficial impact).

#### 15   **Formulation of Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring Program**

16    When significant impacts are identified, feasible mitigation measures are formulated to  
17    eliminate or reduce the intensity of the impacts and focus on the protection of sensitive  
18    resources. The effectiveness of a mitigation measure is subsequently determined by  
19    evaluating the impact remaining after its application. Those impacts meeting or  
20    exceeding the impact significance criteria after mitigation are considered residual  
21    impacts that remain significant (Class I). Implementation of more than one mitigation  
22    measure may be needed to reduce an impact below a level of significance. The  
23    mitigation measures recommended in this Program EIR/EA are identified in the impact  
24    assessment sections and presented in a Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP). The  
25    MMP is provided in Section 8.

26    If any mitigation measures become incorporated as part of a component action's design,  
27    they are no longer considered mitigation measures under the CEQA. If they reduce a  
28    potentially significant impact to a level below significance, they eliminate the potential  
29    for that significant impact, since the "measure" is now a component of the action. Such  
30    measures incorporated into the project design have the same status as any "applicant  
31    proposed measures." The CSLC's practice is to include all mitigation measures in the  
32    MMP.

#### 33   **Cumulative Impacts**

34    Section 4 presents the cumulative impact scenario. In this section, a list and map are  
35    provided that identify other related future projects near the alternate action locations.  
36    The focus of the cumulative impact analysis is to identify the potential impacts of the  
37    component actions that might not be significant when considered alone, but that might  
38    contribute to a significant impact when viewed in conjunction with the other projects.